

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1342

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: SWEDISH PRESS INTERVIEW WITH ZAPO'S NKOMO

1. STOCKHOLM'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AFTERNOON TABLOID, AFTONBLADET, IN ITS APRIL 3 EDITION, RAN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ZAPO LEADER, JOSHUA NKOMO. THE INTERVIEW, HELD AT ZIMBABWE HOUSE, LUSAKA, WAS GIVEN TO AFTONBLADET'S AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, BENGT PERSSON, WHO QUOTES NKOMO AS FOLLOWS:

2. ON CUBAN ADVISORS IN ZAPU CAMPS: "CUBANS* I THINK THE WESTERN WORLD IS GOING BANANAS. THERE ARE CUBANS HERE AND CUBANS THERE. WHAT HAS CUBA DONE THAT'S SO TERRIBLE. SOON WE'LL HEAR THAT IT'S CUBA'S FAULT THAT IT SNOWED SO MUCH LAST WINTER IN THE WESTERN WORLD . . . WE ACTUALLY HAVE NO NEED FOR CUBANS. WE CAN MANAGE OURSELVES."

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3. ON THE WESTERN WORLD: "I THINK THE WEST SHOULD START THINKING OF WHAT IT CAN DO TO LIBERATE SOUTHERN AFRICA INSTEAD OF JUST LOOKING FOR CUBANS. EVERYTHING THAT THE WESTERN WORLD HAS DONE SO FAR, ALL THESE ANGLO-AMERICANS PROPOSALS, HAVE HAD ONE SOLE PURPOSE--TO PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AND MILITARY INTERESTS THAT THE WEST HAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THEY ARE AWARE THAT THEY

HAVE TO CHANGE POLICIES BECAUSE OF PRESSURES FROM THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THE PROGRESSIVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD. BUT THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO BUILD A PROTECTIVE WALL AROUND SOUTH AFRICA--THE LAST BASTION OF THE WESTERN WORLD IN THIS AREA."

4. ON SOUTH AFRICA: "TAKE APARTHEID FOR EXAMPLE. EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT HOW TERRIBLE IT IS, EVEN THE LIBERAL WHITES. BUT WHAT IS IT REALLY ABOUT? WELL IT'S MINORITY RULE--IN ECONOMICS, POLITICS, MILITARY--EVERYWHERE. BUT WOULD MINORITY RULE DISAPPEAR IF APARTHEID WAS ABOLISHED? NO* THE SMARTEST THING THAT VORSTER COULD DO WOULD BE TO ABOLISH APARTHEID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE WESTERN WORLD WOULD APPLAUD HIM; WORLD OPINION WOULD BE FOOLED. BUT NOTHING WOULD REALLY CHANGE. BECAUSE THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM WOULD REMAIN THE SAME."

5. ON ZIMBABWE'S STRUCTURE: "WE NEED RADICAL CHANGES OF COURSE. CHANGES THAT ARE FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE."
(NKOMO REFUSED TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.)

6. ON THE "MODERATE"BLACKS: "TO US THEY ARE ALL FASCISTS, THOSE WHO ARE NOW TRYING TO FORM A SO-CALLED INTERIM GOVERNMENT. WE WILL FIGHT THEM."

7. ON THE IMMEDIATE OUTLOOK: "THE WAR WILL GO ON. IT
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WILL BE INTENSIFIED."

8. ON RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN AND OTHER SCANDINAVIANS:
"THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS FOR A LONG TIME BEEN COMPASSION-
ATELY INCLINED TO OUR STRUGGLE, OK. BUT YOU AS WELL AS THE
NORWEGIANS AND THE DANES NEVER DARE TO DEMONSTRATE BY
CONCRETE ACTION THAT YOU SUPPORT US. WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
THE REST OF THE WORLD? THE VOTERS? YOU DON'T WANT TO
SELL ARMS TO US, YOU SAY. THIS IS PART OF YOUR NEUTRALITY
POLICY. BUT YOU SELL LOTS OF WEAPONS TO A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS
ALL OVER THE WORLD. YOU SEEM TO FIND IT EASIER TO GET ALONG
WITH GOVERNMENTS THAN WITH A LIBERATION MOVEMENT LIKE THE ONE
I REPRESENT. AND STILL YOU SAY THAT YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR
STRUGGLE. IT DOESN'T RING QUITE TRUE TO ME."

9. ON SWEDISH FOREIGN AID: "YOUR AID COMES VIA SIDA, AND
THERE IT'S LIKE PULLING TEETH. IT'S ALWAYS VERY RESTRICTIVE
AND THEY SEEM FRIGHTENED. WHY CAN'T YOU SPEAK AND ACT IN A
DIRECT WAY? NO DOUBT THAT WOULD MAKE IT MUCH EASIER FOR US
IF WE KNEW EXACTLY WHERE YOU STAND. AS THINGS ARE NOW, YOU ARE
VERY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH."
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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